**Amendment to the Claims**

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 23 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of accessing information related to a peripheral device, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a network address in a storage of the peripheral device;

(b) when the peripheral device is coupled to a host device, transferring the network address from the peripheral device to the host device, said step of transferring comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a pointer to a location in an addressable memory of the peripheral device at which the network address is stored;

(ii) communicating the pointer to the host device;

(iii) using the pointer to access the location in the addressable memory of the peripheral device; and

(iv) communicating the network address to the host device from said location; and

(c) enabling communication between the host device and a source indicated by the network address, said communication pertaining to the peripheral device, said step of enabling communication comprising the steps of:

(i) requesting permission of a user to communicate with the source; and

(ii) upon receiving permission to do so from the user, initiating the communication between the host device and the source to automatically obtain information from the source pertaining to the peripheral device.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing comprises the step of storing the network address in the addressable memory of the peripheral device.

3. (Previously Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing comprises the step of storing the network address in one of a removable storage medium and a rewritable storage medium that are readable by the peripheral device.



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5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of detecting a change in the number of peripheral devices connected to the host device to determine when the peripheral device is connected to the host device.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is coupled to the host device through one of:

(a) a wired connection to an input/output port interface on the host device; and

(b) a wireless connection between the host device and the peripheral device.

7. (Previously Cancelled)

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transferring comprises the steps of:

(a) issuing a request to the peripheral device for a string descriptor;

(b) receiving the string descriptor; and

(c) from the string descriptor, determining one of:

(i) the network address; and

(ii) a pointer to a location at which the network address is stored.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transferring comprises the steps of:

(a) issuing a Class request to the peripheral device to obtain the stored network address;

(b) receiving a response to the Class request; and

(c) from the response, determining one of:

(i) the network address; and

(ii) a pointer to a location at which the network address is stored.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of transferring comprises the steps of:

(a) issuing a Vendor Specific Device request to the peripheral device to obtain the network address;

(b) receiving a response to the Vendor Specific Device request; and

(c) from the response, determining one of:

(i) the network address; and

(ii) a pointer to a location at which the network address is stored.



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11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of enabling communication comprises the step of automatically retrieving at least one of data, machine instructions, and a document pertaining to the peripheral device from the source indicated by the network address.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of enabling communication comprises the step of automatically executing a setup program obtained from the source and pertaining to the peripheral device.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of enabling communication comprises the step of automatically displaying a web page available at the source indicated by the network address.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of enabling communication comprises the step of automatically installing a device driver program pertaining to the peripheral device, on the host device.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of enabling communication comprises the step of automatically downloading and installing updated firmware into the peripheral device.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of enabling communication comprises the step of automatically executing an application program pertaining to the peripheral device.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a properties page for the peripheral device that includes a link to the network address, thereby enabling a user to select the link to activate a browser function to subsequently access the source.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of enabling communication further comprises the step of automatically executing a browser function on the host device and automatically navigating to the network address.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of requesting whether a user wants to execute a browser function on the host device and automatically navigating to the network address only if authorized by the user.



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20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of automatically executing a browser function on the host device and automatically navigating to the network address if authorized by the user.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of enabling a user to selectively suppress further requests to execute a browser function on the host device and thereby to prevent the step of automatically navigating to the network address from occurring.

22. (Original) A machine-readable medium having machine-executable instructions for performing steps (b) and (c) of Claim 1.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically accessing information related to a peripheral device, comprising:

(a) a peripheral device in which a network address is stored;

(b) a host device comprising:

(i) a memory in which machine instructions are stored;

(ii) a network interface used to communicate over a network;

(iii) a processor;

(iv) a peripheral interface adapted to communicate with a peripheral device that is operatively connected to the peripheral interface; and

(c) a source of machine-readable material pertaining to the peripheral device, said source being accessible by the host device at the network address stored in the peripheral device, through the network interface, said machine instructions stored in the memory causing the processor to:

(i) transfer the network address from the peripheral device to the host device when the peripheral device is coupled to a host device; and

(ii) enable communication between the host device and the source at the network address, if a user has granted permission, to enable the host device to automatically access the machine-readable material.

24. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to:

(a) issue a request to the peripheral device for a string descriptor;



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(b) receive the string descriptor; and

(c) from the string descriptor, determine one of:

(i) the network address; and

(ii) a pointer to a location at which the network address is stored.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to:

(a) issue a Class request to the peripheral device to obtain the stored network address;

(b) receive a response to the Class request; and

(c) from the response, determine one of:

(i) the network address; and

(ii) a pointer to a location at which the network address is stored.

26. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to:

(a) issue a Vendor Specific Device request to the peripheral device to obtain the network address;

(b) receive a response to the Vendor Specific Device request; and

(c) from the response, determine one of:

(i) the network address; and

(ii) a pointer to a location at which the network address is stored.

27. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to automatically retrieve at least one of data, machine instructions, and a document pertaining to the peripheral device from the source indicated by the network address.

28. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to automatically execute a setup program obtained from the source and pertaining to the peripheral device.

29. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to automatically display a web page available at the source indicated by the network address.



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30. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to automatically install a device driver program pertaining to the peripheral device on the host device.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to automatically download and install updated firmware into the peripheral device.

32. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to automatically execute an application program pertaining to the peripheral device.

33. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to provide a properties page for the peripheral device that includes a link to the network address, thereby enabling a user to select the link to activate a browser function to access the source.

34. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to automatically execute a browser function on the host device and automatically access the source at the network address.

35. (Original) The system of Claim 23, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to request whether a user wants to execute a browser function on the host device and automatically access the source at the network address, only if authorized by the user.

36. (Original) The system of Claim 35, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to automatically execute a browser function on the host device and automatically access the source at the network address, if previously authorized by the user.

37. (Original) The system of Claim 35, wherein said machine instructions further cause the processor to enable a user to selectively suppress further requests to execute a browser function on the host device, and thereby to prevent automatically accessing the source at the network address.



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